

Minutes of Board meeting No. 57

Date: 20 October 2010,

Time: 8:30-14:00

Place: Aarhus University, Denmark

Present:	Ágúst Sigurðsson	LBHI
	Just Jensen	AU-DJF
	Antti Sukura	HU-V
	Marketta Sipi	HU-AF
	Grete Bertelsen for Per Holten-Andersen	LIFE
	Lena Anderson Eklund for Lisa Sennerby-Forsse	SLU
	Mari Sundli Tveit, for Hans Fredrik Hoen	UMB
	Björn Þorsteinsson	LBHI
	Anna Berg Samúelsdóttir	NSB
	Þórunn Reykdal	NOVA coordinator, secretary

Absent regular members:

Hans Fredrik Hoen	UMB
Lisa Sennerby-Forsse	SLU
Per Holten-Andersen	LIFE
Seppo Kellomäki	UEF-F
Yngvild Wasteson	NVH

57. 1 Opening of meeting and approval of agenda

Ágúst Sigurðsson opened the meeting and the agenda was approved. A short presentation round was made.

57.2 Follow up on Board meeting 56

Þórunn Reykdal highlighted a few items in the minutes from the last meeting, which more or less are connected to the agenda of the current meeting. The minutes were acknowledged.

57.3 Information from KUF meeting 36

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on KUF meeting 36 and the minutes were accepted. Björn drew attention to autumn call for PhD courses with deadline October 15th where ten applications have been received, applying for 257.253 € and that 98.000 € are for disbursement. Þórunn announced that the Nordic Forest Research Cooperation Committee (SNS) will continue to support forestry related courses during 2010, by 16.000 €, maximum four courses with 4.000 € each.

57.4 Profit – loss 2009

Þórunn Reykdal presented the Profit-loss account for 2009. Final revision of the account was delayed due to maternity leave of the former central NOVA coordinator and therefore presented now instead of the Board meeting in May. Total fees and external funding was 584.468 € and activities and secretariat were 629.268 €. The year of 2009 is the last accounting year where currency gain/loss will be accounted while from 2010 accounting will be in Euros at LBHI, currency loss 2009 was accounted 9.642 €, leaving the result of the year minus 30.818 € and equity 31st of December 2009 therefore 114.592 €.

57.5 Annual report 2009

Pórunn Reykdal presented the Annual report 2009; a draft of the data had been presented at Board meeting 56. Due to how late in the year the report is presented, main emphasis was put on keeping the report short and simple, highlighting the main activities of 2009.

Decision:

Minor corrections were made and the Annual report of 2009 was confirmed by the Board.

57.6 Final budget 2010

Pórunn Reykdal presented half a year account of 2010, which had been presented at the KUF meeting in September 2010. Based on it and the fact of high equity last years, proposals of reduction of member fees for 2010 from LIFE and NOVA EC were presented with the Board meeting agenda and enclosures. Just Jensen raised the question of revision of funding within NOVA, how it could be more effective and result in less equity build up. Now given that autumn call with deadline October 15th shows high demand for funding of NOVA PhD courses and that without extra funding it will only be possible to approve a few of the applications, it was suggested that the amount on the budget 2010 for funding of PhD courses would be raised from 450.000 € to 600.000 €. The secretariat was asked to make a survey on the use of funding during the last years to estimate the annual regained amount, e.g. funding not used as a proportion of funding. Based on these findings annual amount for funding of courses should be raised and therefore build up of equity through amount of regained funding should decrease.

Decision:

Member fees for 2010 will be as budgeted and funding of PhD courses 2010 is raised from 450.000 € to 600.000 € in 2010. The secretariat will estimate the proportion of regained funding to be taken into account when funding of courses is decided and presented at the next Board meeting.

57.7 Activity report 2010

Ágúst Sigurðsson reported on main activities during 2010 where the main focus was set on discussions on new strategy 2011-2014, which was the theme of the Annual Seminar in May. Spring call 2010 for PhD courses 2011 attracted 18 applications of which 15 were approved and granted 396.777 Euros. One PhD course was cancelled during the year which added to the allocated sum of PhD course funding left total of 98.000 € available for autumn call October 15th and as previously mentioned ten applications were submitted to the NOVA database. Other grants Jan-Sept 2010 were approved as follows: MSc courses 14.000 €, Planning grants 28.227 € and Project grants 11.117 €.

NSB students introduced their ideas on promotional campaign of NOVA and at Board meeting 56 decision was made on to begin with printable material for distribution to the member universities, and at KUF meeting 36 suggestion was made to invite information officers to next annual seminar.

On October 15th Pórunn Reykdal had a meeting with the NOVA data base designer regarding further development of the online registration of applications, i.e. on online registrations of all applications and of development of linking of MSc and BSc courses to in the database to the NOVA homepage.

NSB students had three meetings during the year, in Riga, Selfoss and Uppsala.

57.8 New NOVA Strategy 2011-2014

Björn Þorsteinsson reported on main changes in the new NOVA Strategy 2011-2014, from the NOVA Strategy 2007-2010. The current document is based on the previous layout and structure of the NOVA strategy, with the exception of addition of summary of goals within the strategy. The main changes of the strategy lie within the chapter "Cooperation within the MSc education", which according to current achievements and inputs from the annual seminar has been changed.

The structure of the strategy was discussed and suggested that it should be simplified by deleting "Key strategic areas for NOVA" on page 7 and the list of "Key targets for the strategic period of 2011-2014" on page 8. Instead the prime emphasis of the strategic period should be stated before listing the aims for the key strategic areas.

It was suggested that, "Professional Nordic networks 2011-2014" in aim 2.1 should be changed to "NOVA networks 2011-2014".

In chapter 2.2., on quality PhD courses 2011-2014 Antti Sukura suggested addition to status of specializing veterinarians on page 9, since there are both national and international residency programs, "or enrolled at a residency program" should therefore be added. It was suggested that aim 2.2.a) should be changed, by the end of the period NOVA should aim for at least 30 PhD courses.

On page 12 is a copy and paste error where a paragraph needs to be deleted and chapter 8 "Measurable goals" should be renamed to "Summary of goals" and moved to appendices. Finally it was suggested that under appendices Criteria of NOVA networks should be added, or a link to the criteria.

Decision:

The secretariat and EC committee will send to the Board a revised edition of the NOVA Strategy 2011-2014, giving Board members a chance to make their comments on the document and then follow up by sending the final document for *Per Capsulam* decision of the Board.

57.9 Annual Seminar 2011 Foulum 5-6 May

After discussing the different options, the major topic for the annual seminar was suggested.

Decision:

The major theme for the Annual NOVA seminar 2011 will be education for sustainable development. In addition a meeting on NOVA information strategy will be held with inputs from information officers at different NOVA institutions.

57.10 Budget 2011

Þórunn Reykdal introduced suggested budget for 2011, where member fee is kept at total of 720.000 € as previous years, calculations are based on current membership fees formula and financial result from 2009. LIFE proposed that changing the division rules and of the way of calculating membership fees should be considered, where more weight should be given to number of PhD students was discussed. NOVA activities 2011 were discussed, two items have been added; promotional campaign and NOVA database development. Suggested increased activity is met by result of -60.400 € by the end of the year, which would lower equity accordingly.

It was proposed that "New areas" should be deleted and included in NOVA projects, since very little funding has been under new areas in 2009 and 2010.

Decision:

Current membership fee model will be used in the coming budget year for 2011. The secretariat will present some new calculation models with increased proportional weight of number of PhD students versus governmental funding in membership at next Board meeting.

On activities 2011 the following decisions were made:

- ✓ Allocated money for funding of PhD courses was raised from 450.000 to 550.000 €.
- ✓ The funding of "new areas" is included in NOVA other projects, MSc courses and planning grants with total of 110.000 €.
- ✓ Allocated money for promotional campaign in 2011 is decided 10.000 € and for development of NOVA database 15.000 €.

The above decision leads to total activities of -830.000 €, the budget for the secretariat is unchanged from the proposed costs resulting in total activities, secretariat and interest of -855.400 €. The result of the year 2011 is therefore proposed to become -85.400 €.

General consensus was on the necessity of setting approximately 50.000 € in equity for the rotating secretariat of the NOVA network.

57.11 Report from NSB

Anna Berg Samúelsdóttir reported on NOVA Student Board activities.

57.12 Other issues:

57.12. a) News from member institutions

Just Jensen introduced ongoing organisational changes within AU-DJF with merging of faculties where the Faculty of Agricultural Sciences will become part of Faculty of Science and other Board members reported shortly on activities at their universities.

57.12. b) Meeting dates,

Suggested meeting dates: Jan 26th video meeting, May 5-6th Foulum, Oct 18 SLU were accepted and decided that the video meetings should start at 9 o'clock Danish, Norwegian and Swedish time (GMT + 1).

57.13 End of meeting

Just Jensen announced that a guided tour through the AU-DJF campus would be given after lunch with departure from AU-DJF at approximately 14:00.

The meeting was ended by the chair at 12:35.



Ágúst Sigurðsson
Chair, NOVA Board



Þórunn Reykdal
Secretary